Revamping of jute mills under National Jute Manufacturing Corporation

998. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount allotted by the Central Government for modernisation of the jute mills in West Bengal and what amount out of that is to be spent on the expansion of mills;

(b) what is the total loss accumulated by National Jute Manufacturing Corporation and the number of mills managed and run by it;

(c) what are the reasons for the loss sustained by the Corporation when the market for jute goods is not as bad as it is projected to be;

(d) what drastic steps are being taken to revamp the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation;

(e) whether there is any proopsal of putting all the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation Mills under Employees' Cooperatives; and

(f) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The Jute Modernisation Fund, with a corpus of Rs. 150 crores, has been set up to cater to the modernisation requirments of the jute industry. No specific amount has been earmarked for expansion of jute mills.

(b) National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. (NJMC) has incurred cash losses amounting to Rs. 434.16 crores since its incorporation in 1980 up till 31st March, 1991. NJMC runs six jute mills.

(c) The reasons for cash losses incurred by NJMC include obsolete machinery, surplus labour, high prices of jute and interest burden on backlog of losses.

(d) The strategy to turn around NJMC includes modernisation, diversification, open market purchase of raw jute and implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(e) and (f) In view of the heavy losses incurred by NJMC, Govt. is prepared to consider any proposal for its revitalisation including handing it over to workers co-operatives.

Steps to further increase export of Textiles

999. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable increase in the export of textiles during the last six months; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken to increase the exports further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) During April-September, 1991 textile exports amounted to Rs. 5918 Cr. (Provisional) which was an increase of 34.2 per cent over the achievement during April-September, 1990. Government are taking several steps to boost textile exports which include:

(i) Modernisation of industry by allowing import of sophisticated textile machinery at concessional duty;

(ii) fixing of Minimum export prices for textile items subject to quota restrictions in terms of convertible foreign currencies;

(iii) improvements in the provisions of Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy;

(iv) organising Buyter-Seller Meets and Study Tours in foreign markets to popularise export products;

(v) enhancing and liberalising REP Licensing Scheme now known as EXIM SCRIP Scheme etc;